

Mara Cogni

From Sentences to Essays

A Guide to Reflective Writing through Reflective Thinking

SERIES IN EDUCATION

About the author

Mara Cogni holds a Master's Degree in Philosophy of European Languages from the University of Oslo, Norway and a Master's Degree in Modern Languages from Moldova State University. As a Lecturer M.A. at Oslo Adult Education Center Sinsen, she is actively engaged in several projects that are focused on developing students' thinking skills. Cogni is a strong advocate of reflection and philosophy as ideal approaches to the future classroom experience.

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“Mara Cogni’s book offers a novel approach to the writing process. It is exciting to read and quite unlike other books on writing. It combines language, literature, psychology, and philosophy, and takes learners on a journey in which thinking and writing reflectively is a gratifying experience. Reading and writing become part of a whole in which meaning is created. Grammar and vocabulary are not taken out of context as is often the case with most such books. Instead, they are part of significant literary texts, which also inspire students to visit the classics. But most of all, writing sentences, paragraphs and essays becomes a deeply enjoyable experience because the book’s activities encourage a personal relationship with the learners.”

Kari Tegneby Jørgensen,
Oslo Kommune, Norway

Summary

There is hardly any doubt that reading and writing are related activities, and that both rely on creating meaning. When we read, as well as when we write, we find ourselves in the process of becoming. We change our knowledge and understanding along the way. However, writing is a daunting activity not only for language learners but for anyone who wants to communicate their thoughts and ideas persuasively and accurately. When students engage in speaking activities, they are often able to communicate extraordinarily interesting ideas with few problems. Yet, when asked to form these ideas into coherent texts, they seem helpless.

From basic sentence structure to writing persuasively, this book aims to help students tackle the various challenges and difficulties they face when writing. Divided into three accessible sections, Cogni presents a comprehensive and reflective approach to writing that combines grammar, vocabulary, and literature into a simultaneous and coherent whole. Cogni acknowledges that today more than ever learning a language needs to be perceived as a deeply meaningful process, and this book seeks to make that possible.

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